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Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 190317

EXDIS TOSEC 32

FOLL REPEAT SANTIAGO 4559 ACTION SECSTATE SEPTEMBER 24 QUOTE

E C R E T SANTIAGO 4559

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: CI, PFOR, US
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AGREMENT - HEITMANN

REF: SANTIAGO 4363

SUMMARY: GOC REQUESTS USG AGREMENT FOR RETIRED FACH GENERAL HEITMANN AS AMBASSADOR TO US. THOROUGH SEARCH EMBASSY SOURCES REVEALS NO GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION. HEITMANN IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO ME, TO AIR ATTACHE AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MY CALL AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY, I WAS REQUESTED TO OBTAIN USG AGREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF WALTER HERBERT HEITMANN WOERNER, RETIRED FACH GENERAL, TO BE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO USG. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION TRANSLATED BELOW.

2. GOC ANXIOUS FOR HEITMANN TAKE OVER SOONEST AS AMBASSADOR
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IN WASHINGTON NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO POSITION BY GOC BUT BECAUSE OF PECULIAR SITUATION WHICH NOW EXISTS IN CHILEAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. INTERNALLY DEFENSE ATTACHE ADMIRAL EBERHARD IS IN EFFECT IN CHARGE, BUT

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FOR PURPOSES RELATIONS WITH USG AND GENERAL PUBLIC CONSUMPTION
CHARGE MARIO ARTAZA IS IN COMMAND AND PRESENT GOC AUTHORITIES
DO NOT CONSIDER ARTAZA COMPLETELY TRUSTWORTHY. GOC DESIRES AVOID
ACCREDITING EBERHARD AS CHARGE SINCE SERIES OF CHARGES LOOKS
ODD, HENCE HOPE THAT AGREMENT CAN BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT DELAY.

3. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION HANDED TO
ME BY BARROS:

A. WALTER HERBERT HEITMAN

WOERNER BORN JULY 8, 1917 IN
SANTIAGO, CHILE. SON OF ISABEL WOERNER DE HEITMANN AND CARLOS
HEITMANN. MARRIED TO MARIA INES RUDOLPH DE HEITMANN. CHILDREN
(BOYS) ARE CAROL AND VERNON HEITMANN RUDOLPH. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
FROM GERMAN SCHOOL IN SANTIAGO 1936. ENTERED AIR FORCE ACADEMY
1938. REMAINED IN AIR FORCE UNTIL MARCH 1972, ASCENDING THROUGH
RANKS TO GENERAL.

B. DURING AIR FORCE CAREER WAS PILOT IN AVIATION GROUP #2
FROM 1940-1948. CHIEF OF COURSE AND PROFESSOR IN AIR FORCE
ACADEMY 1949-50. PASSED INFORMATION COURSE. FROM 1950-53
DEPUTY COMMANDER OF AVIATION GROUP #5 AT PUNTO ARENAS. 1954
APPOINTED GENERAL STAFF OFFICER. 1955 COMMANDER OF AVIATION
GROUP #4. FROM 1954-56 PROFESSOR OF LOGISTICS IN AIR WAR
ACADEMY. FROM 1956-57 MEMBER OF CHILEAN AIR FORCE MISSION IN
WASHINGTON. FROM 1957-59 DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS IN AIR FORCE
GENERAL STAFF. FROM 1958-60 APPOINTED ACADEMIC PROFESSOR OF
LOGISTICS AND SUPPLY IN AIR FORCE ACADEMY. FROM 1959-61 COMMANDER
OF TRANSPORT GROUP #10 AND IN CHARGE OF AIR LIFE IN CONNECTION
1960 EARTHQUAKE. IN 1961 DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS IN AIR FORCE
GENERAL STAFF. FROM 1962-64, CHIEF OF CHILEAN AIR FORCE MISSION
IN WASHINGTON, AIR FORCE ATTACHE IN CANADA, AIR FORCE ATTACHE
IN EMBASSY AT WASHINGTON, AND DELEGATE TO INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE
BOARD. FROM 1964-68 CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF LOGISTICS COMMAND.
IN 1968 DIRECTOR OF AERONAUTICS FOR SIX MONTHS. FROM 1968-69
COMMANDER OF FOURTH AIR BRIGADE AT PUNTO ARENAS. IN 1969
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COMMANDANT OF LOGISTICAL COMMAND. IN 1971 CHIEF OF GENERAL
STAFF OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, AND PROMOTED TO GENERAL OF AVIATION.

C. OTHER STUDIES AND DEGREES: INTERPRETER IN GERMAN, PILOT
INSTRUCTOR FOR GLIDERS, SPECIALIST IN LOGISTICS AND SUPPLY,
PASSED COURSE IN RATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF ENTERPRISES, IN
ADDITION TO SPANISH SPEAKS AND WRITES GERMAN AND ENGLISH.

D. MEDALS AND DECORATIONS: TEN AND TWENTY YEARS SERVICE
MEDALS. MILITARY MERIT MEDAL. PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC MEDAL.
THREE TIMES US LEGION OF MERIT, EARNED AS LIAISON OFFICER WITH
US AIR MISSION, AS CHIEF OF RESEARCH PROJECT FOR FACH AND USAF
ON EASTER ISLAND, AND FOR HIS PERFORMANCE AS AIR ATTACHE.

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3. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SEE DIA BIOGRAPHIC DATA PUBLISHED JULY 1969. HEITMANN STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, FRIENDLY TO US AND COOPERATIVE WITH US PERSONNEL. NO POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION KNOWN TO US.

4. THOROUGH SEARCH OF EMBASSY SOURCES REVEALS NO RPT NO GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION. HEITMANN IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO ME, TO AIR ATTACHE AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS.
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